

EVERYDAY BLESSINGS MIDWIFERY
CHILDBIRTH AND WOMEN'S HEALTH NURSE-MIDWIFERY

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KATIE LAVERY, MS, CNM

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RE: HB 4598 (Rep. McBroom) Health occupations; health care professionals; midwives; provide for licensing and regulation.

On behalf of the American College of Nurse-Midwives, Michigan Affiliate, we would like to express our NEUTRAL position on this bill, and express our concerns.

The International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) passed worldwide basic education, preparation and practice standards for midwives including different levels of birth attendants and their qualifications. This bill does not support the need for the CPMs or other direct entry midwives to meet the BASIC worldwide standards of the rest of the world. This is not acceptable for the women and families of this state, who would equate licensure with approved preparation and skills.

In addition, we have specific concerns about the medication section, and lack of requirements for consultation and transfer of patients inappropriate for the CPMs educational preparation and birth setting. We would gladly share our thoughts about these areas with the bill sponsor or this committee if desired.

We believe that the direct entry midwives (like all health care providers) should be licensed and regulated. However, their licensure standards need to be high enough to assure safe and prudent practice. We can not support this bill, which does not assure an appropriate level of preparation, safe medication administration, consultation or referral. The women and families of Michigan deserve a better bill and higher standards.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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